ONE HUNDRED BIBLE WAYS TO BE A FOOL

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One Hundred Bible Ways To Be a Fool

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CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I	One Hundred Bible Ways to Be a Fool	11
II	Fools in General - - - -	58
III	Others Suffering Because of Fools -	73
IV	The Seven Sins of a Fool - -	75
V	The Punishment of Fools - -	79
	Conclusion - - - - -	83

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INTRODUCTION

No one wants to be a fool, yet one can hardly walk a block on the street without seeing one of the hundred different kinds of fools described in the Bible. It is from not knowing what constitutes a fool that we have so many of them. Ignorance is the cause of more sin, different kinds of sin, than all other causes combined. The following are but a few of the things set forth in this book concerning fools: Foolish women (Job 2:10)—what kills a fool (Job 5:2)—the children of fools (Job 5:4)—what the fool says in his heart (Psa. 14:1)—the affliction of fools (Psa. 107:17, 18)—what fools despise (Prov. 1:7)—the mouth of the foolish (Prov. 10:14)—the fool's sport (Prov. 10:23)—the rod of pride in the mouth of a fool (Prov. 14:3)—the folly of fools (Prov. 14:8)—fools mocking sin (Prov. 14:9)—foolishness from the mouth of fools (Prov. 15:2)—the food of fools (Prov. 15:14)—whipping fools (Prov. 17:10)—a bear and a fool (Prov. 17:12)—the father of a fool (Prov. 17:21)—the eyes of a fool (Prov. 17:24)—when a fool is wise (Prov. 17:28)—a fool's discovery (Prov. 18:2)—a fool's lips (Prov. 18:6, 7)—the back of fools (Prov. 19:29)—meddling fools (Prov. 20:3)—teach not fools (Prov. 23:9)—the wisdom of a fool (Prov. 24:7)—a parable in the mouth of fools (Prov. 26:7-9)—worse than a fool (Prov. 26:12)—dogs and fools (Prov. 26:11)—a fool's wrath (Prov. 27:3)—impossible to beat the folly out of fools (Prov. 27:22)—trusting in self is a fool (Prov. 28:26)—the fool uttereth all his mind (Prov. 29:11)—how a fool is known (Ecle. 5:3)—the laughter of fools (Ecle. 7:5, 6)—anger resting in the bosom of fools (Ecle. 7:9)—a fool's heart

on the left side (Ecle. 10:2)—a fool swallows himself (Ecle. 10:12, 13)—a fool is full of words (Ecle. 10:14) —poor and foolish (Jer. 5:4)—wise and foolish builders (Matt. 7:24-29)—foolish boasting (2 Cor. 11:16-28)—the seven sins of a fool (Titus 3:3)—preaching the cross is foolishness to them that perish (1 Cor. 1:18)—God has made foolish the wisdom of the world (1 Cor. 1:20)—by the foolishness of preaching believers are saved (1 Cor. 1:21)—Christ crucified is foolishness to Greeks (1 Cor. 1:23)—the foolishness of God is wiser than men (1 Cor. 1:25)—God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Cor. 1:27)—Spiritual things are foolishness to the natural man (1 Cor. 2:14)—becoming a fool to be wise (1 Cor. 3:18)—worldly wisdom is foolishness with God (1 Cor. 3:19)—the foolish virgins (Matt. 25:2)—fool-judges (Job. 12:17)—shame is the fool's promotion (Prov. 3:35)—fools die for lack of wisdom (Job 10:21) —fools serve the wise (Prov. 11:29)—the way of the fool is right in his own eyes (Prov. 12:15)—companion of fools to be destroyed (Prov. 13:20) — fools mock sin (Prov. 14:9)—the fool's price for wisdom (Prov. 17:16) —fools can understand the way of salvation, if they try (Isa. 35:8)—fool-prophets (Hosea 9:7)—calling Christian brethren fools (Matt. 5:22)—fools make the outside clean (Luke 11:39, 40)—fools try to feed their souls on corn (Luke 12:16-20)—fools are slow to believe (Luke 24:25)—wise fools (Rom. 1:22)—fools reproach others (Psa. 39:8)—foolish shepherds (Zech. 11:15)—foolish hearts darkened (Rom. 1:21)—instructing the foolish (Rom. 2:20)—foolish talking (Eph. 5:4)—foolish lusts (1 Tim. 6:9)—foolish questions (2 Tim. 2:23)—"put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1 Peter 2:15)—foolishness of fools (Prov. 14:24)—thoughts of foolish-

ness is sin (Prov. 24:9)—foolishness comes out of the heart (Mark 7:21, 22).

After any one acquaints himself with all the terrible things about fools as set forth in this book, and after fully knowing what constitutes a fool, he will never be one again, if he were before.

To all who want to rise above the beggarly things of life, who want the true wisdom that comes down from above, who are striving not to be fools, any kind of a fool, this book is faithfully dedicated.

—THE AUTHOR.

ONE HUNDRED BIBLE WAYS TO BE A FOOL

CHAPTER I

ONE HUNDRED BIBLE WAYS TO BE A FOOL

(1). **A Fool by Stealing Away from Father-in-law.** "Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing" (Gen. 31:27, 28).

This is the first time a fool or a foolish thing is mentioned in the Scriptures. In the eyes of the Lord, Jacob was not foolish, but to his father-in-law he was terrible. However, one is under great obligations to his parents-in-law, and should be dutiful as much as is reasonable.

(2). **A Fool for Being Perverse and Crooked.** "They have corrupted themselves; their spot is not the spot of His children: they are a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? Is not He thy father that hath bought thee? Hath He not made thee, and established thee?" (Deut. 32:5, 6).

The expression, "Their spot is not the spot of His children", shows that by their perverseness and crookedness they did not have God's mark upon them. God's mark is shown by living a good life, a life acceptable to the Lord. The wicked by being bad show the mark of the Devil upon them. The remainder of the quotation shows that God made them, bought them, and established them, and they should be too grateful to be foolish in their living.

(3). **A Fool for Offering Burnt Offerings.** "And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offering. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass, that, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; therefore said I, the Philistines will come down upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself, therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which He commanded thee; for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever" (1 Sam. 13:9-13).

Only a priest of the tribe of Levi had a right according to the law of Moses to offer sacrifices officially, but Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin, a king and not a priest, which disqualified him for priestly duties, and it was a grave sin for him to officiate at the altar. He was a fool for doing it, and for this foolish thing he lost his kingdom. We seldom know how much we lose by doing just one foolish thing. Saul had not learned the great lesson that God means what He says in His Word, and to disobey brings severe punishment. Many to-day have not learned that lesson. God's Word cannot be changed; His Word will never pass away (Matt. 24:35), and by it we shall be judged (Rom. 2:16), which makes it most imperative that we accept and live it just as it reads. If

Uzzah had done it that way, he would not have died the shameful death that he did. We should keep in mind that every time we take matters into our own hands, doing things as we think best, regardless of the Bible on that subject, we are FOOLS. The world is full of fools, because most of us do as we please regardless of the Bible, not considering the end of such disobedience. Let us be sure we do believe the Bible, every word of it, and then be as careful to obey it daily.

(4). **A Fool for Neglecting the Needy.** "And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. And David sent out ten young men; and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: and thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast. And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds who were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. Ask thy young men, and they will show thee. Wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes; for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David. And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased. And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be? So David's young men turned their

way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings. And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword, and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff. But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we anything, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: they were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him. Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. And she said unto her servants, Go on before me: behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal. And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them. Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good. So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any one * * * * *. And when Abigail saw David, she hasted,

and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be; and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he (Nabal means "fool"); Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send. Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the Lord hath withheld thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal" (1 Sam. 25:4-26).

As stated before, the word "Nabal" means "fool", and Abigail, his wife, said he was all his name implied. He refused to help the needy, those who were his friends, those who had befriended him. Also, according to one of his own servants, he was a most unreasonable man, one a person could not speak to, there being many of such people to-day, but all such are fools, according to this Scripture. Some men are hard to approach, hard to talk to, so unreasonable they are, so rough, and they have no sympathy for those in need, but we shall not forget that all such are FOOLS, one hundred per cent FOOLS.

(5). **A Fool by Trying to Kill a Friend.** "Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David; for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly" (1 Sam. 26:21).

No one ever has more than a dozen real friends in this world, and very few people have as many as one real

friend, for a friend is one who will die for you, if it is necessary, and to whom you can tell every bad thing in your life, and never hear the echo of it. If you have ONE such friend, thank God the remainder of your life for him, do him all the good you can, and never do him the least hurt. Be his friend, too. According to Solomon, "To have friends, we must show ourselves friendly." David was the best friend Saul ever had, but Saul did not appreciate him, was afraid of him, and did everything in his power to kill him. Many people to-day are doing themselves the greatest possible injury by seeking and making opportunities to damage their friends. All such people are FOOLS, according to the Scripture under consideration. Indeed, a person is a fool in doing the least unkind thing to a friend. Take care of all your friends; you need them. Friends are worth more than money.

(6). **A Fool for Raping His Sister.** "And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come, lie with me, my sister. And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. Howbeit, he would not hearken unto her voice; but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her. Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love

wherewith he had loved her: and Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. And she said unto him, There is no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her. Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her. And she had a garment of divers colors upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her. And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? But hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house" (2 Sam. 13:10-20).

This is one of the most tragic things in history. This is one of the blights on human character that can never be removed, unless it is done by the blood of Jesus Christ, and by His matchless grace. To force any one is cowardly, doggedly, so inhuman, but for a man to force his own sister, one so good, so humble, so wise as was Tamar certainly does make a black page in the books of crime. It makes the blood boil to read it hundreds of years after it occurred, and we do not wonder that her brother Absalom never rested till he was killed, though we do not believe it does a man any good to kill him, we do not believe in capital punishment. It is impossible to be a much worse FOOL than was Amnon. His name will be loathed at every remembrance of it. It is a stench in history. Every time we think of FOOL-AMNON our

blood gets hot but our sympathy for unfortunate Tamar follows her dust and ashes to the grave, and her weeping spirit into the realities of the unknown.

(7). **A Fool for Conspiring Against the King.** "And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O Lord, I pray Thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness" (2 Sam. 15:31). Also, we shall read in the following the FOOL-COUNSEL of Ahithophel: "Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do. And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, whom he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou are abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that be with thee be strong. So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel" (2 Sam. 16:20-22).

The counsel of FOOL-AHITHOPHEL caused one of the most vulgar acts ever recorded in history. It would be hard to produce a more shameful thing. We just shudder at such a sin, and the end of such a beast certainly could not be a good one. We want you to read in the following what such a fool will do: "And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel (later counsel) was not followed, he saddled his ass (that is what he was—a fool one at that), and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father" (2 Sam. 17:23).

There is but one regretable thing about the glorious (?)end of this FOOL, and that was, **he was buried.** He should have been eaten by the buzzards, and his bones

left to bleach upon the fields of forgetfulness.

It is a great thing that he hanged himself, for that put him into the Judas class. There are some people who never will be as good as Judas, for they never will hang themselves as he did. If all such people would end their lives as Ahithophel and Judas did, it would put an end to their breaking other hearts. Yes, truly we commend both Ahithophel and Judas for killing themselves, but that is all the good we have to remember concerning them.

(8). **A Fool-King for Numbering the People.** "And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech Thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (2 Sam. 24:10). Read again: "And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech Thee, do away the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (1 Chron. 21:8).

Kings are not supposed to make mistakes, they and some others think. Some even think they are infallible, but David confessed that he was a fool, had done foolishly. It is strength in one to realize his weakness, and to confess it, but very few do such things. David made more than one mistake, making some of the very worst, but he never failed to profit by them, never failed to be more careful in the future. If one acts the fool, and then lives better after, there is hope for him.

(9). **A Fool by Relying upon Human Strength, and not upon God.** "And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa the king of Judah, and said unto him, because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the

Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely upon the Lord, He delivered them into thine hand. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him. Herein thou hast done foolishly; therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars" (2 Chron. 16:7-9).

There are but few people who are not fools for relying upon their own strength, or that of supposed friends, and God is seldom in one of their thoughts. Yes, for this one reason, for this very thing, the world is a mass of FOOLS. In the following we have the curse that is upon this class of FOOLS: "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord" (Jer. 17:5).

(10). **A Fool-Wife for Asking Her Husband to Curse God and Die.** "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What! shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips" (Job 2:9, 10).

Many fool-wives have ruined great men, but Job was too strong thus to be tempted, thus to fall. His very name is immortal for his great strength in such times of testing. Anybody is a fool that will curse God or try to get others to do it.

(11). **A Fool by Wrath.** "For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one" (Job 5:2). "A

fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame" (Prov. 12:16). "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly; and a man of wicked devices is hated" (Prov. 14:17). "A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both" (Prov. 27:3).

All people who get mad easily, for nothing, are fools, according to the Scriptures just given, by which the world is again crowded with fools galore, without number. Get mad easily, and know you are a fool.

(12). **A Fool for Unjust Judgment.** "He leadeth counsellors away spoiled, and maketh the judges fools" (Job 12:17).

Because a man is a judge in some high court does not mean that he is not one of the worst fools on earth, and his looking wise does not mean he is not a fool. He will be judged as he judges (Matt. 7:1, 2), and in that great day he will realize what a fool he was in this world.

(13). **A Fool by Being Vile and Base.** "They were children of fools, yea, children of base men; they were viler than the earth" (Job 30:8).

Base and vile people think they are the "high-ups" in this world, that they are the greatest people on earth, but when the searchlight of the judgment is turned upon them, they will realize when too late that they have never been anything but fools. It richly pays to be clean in body, soul, and spirit. If you are vile or base, just know that you are a FOOL.

(14). **A Fool for Saying There is no God.** "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt; they have done abominable works; there is none that doeth good" (Psa. 14:1). "The fool hath said in

his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good" (Psa. 53:1).

Men like Bob Ingersol and others who say, **There is no God,** are respected by being called by the soft and modest name "Infidel", but they should not be shown this respect, they should be called FOOLS, the name God gave to them, for they are nothing less.

(15). **A Fool for not Understanding the Greatness of God, and that He Should Be Praised with Instrumental Music.** "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High: to show forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night, upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through Thy work; I will triumph in the works of Thy hands. O Lord, how great are Thy works! and Thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand" (Psa. 92:1-6).

Many do not comprehend at all the greatness of God, and they think it very sinful to praise Him with instrumental music, but the Bible teaches that all such people are FOOLS. Many fools have raised trouble, divided churches, sent many to the Devil by making trouble over instrumental music, by objecting to the saints praising God with it. There are so many FOOLS that we just have to wonder where are the wise.

(16). **A Fool for not Being Wise.** "Understand, ye brutish among the people; and, ye fools, when will ye be wise?" (Psa. 94:8). "The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom" (Prov. 10:21).

"Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate" (Prov. 24:7).

Hear James tell us how to have wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, That giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed" (Jas. 1:5, 6). If a man is a fool, it is because he wants to be, because he does not ask God for wisdom after having put himself in proper relation to God by accepting Christ.

(17). **A Fool by Transgression, for Iniquities, for Abhorring all Manner of Meats, and by Drawing Near the Gates of Death.** "Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted: their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near the gates of death" (Psa. 107:17, 18).

These are threefold FOOLS. They are fools by transgressing, and by iniquities; they are fools for abhorring all kinds of meat, thinking it is sinful to eat meat; and they are fools for drawing near the gates of death, by endangering themselves, by taking chances. Fools experiment with all kinds of sinful things, thinking they are strong enough to resist and not allow them to become habits, and are ruined before they know it.

(18). **A Fool for Despising Wisdom and Instruction.** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7).

You cannot teach some people. They despise instruction; they despise wisdom. They are fools. A person who refuses to be taught by a capable teacher does not deserve the least sympathy, and should be left to his fol-

ly and ignorance. Such people never amount to anything. "Makers of History" seek instruction, and daily pray for wisdom. Ignorance and fools mean the same thing, for any one can acquire great stores of information, if he desires it and tries.

(19). **A Fool for Hating Knowledge.** "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge" (Prov. 1:22)?

This at first thought seems to be like the one given above and there is similarity, but also there is a great difference. One can despise instruction to the extent that he will not be instructed, but in "hating knowledge" it can be hated in others as well as in self. In other words, knowledge wherever found is hated by FOOLS. It is a terrible thing when a man is disliked because he is well informed, but that is how he is treated by FOOLS.

(20). **A Fool by not Having an Understanding Heart.** "O ye simple, understand wisdom, and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart" (Prov. 8:5).

Not being able to understand is one of the most unfortunate things in all the world, but this reprobate condition comes upon some by wilful sin, as in the following: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Rom. 1:28). A reprobate is unable to discern between bad and good, right and wrong, which means he is ever a fool after God throws him away. It does not pay not to desire God, not to want to know Him, for God will throw such a person away quickly. He never fails to do it.

(21). **A Fool for Being a LOUD TALKER.** "A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knoweth nothing" (Prov. 9:13).

Truly cultured people, high class people, good people, are not loud talkers. To them loud talking is repulsive, so trying on their nerves, and they try to remain away from those who do it that way. Not only does real culture cry out against clamorous speech, but you see here that God calls such people FOOLS, and He certainly means what He has said on the subject. God here classes **ignorance,** knowing nothing, with **loud talking,** and the combination is well made. Therefore, if we desire to advertise our own **ignorance** and at the same time evidence the fact that we are **fools,** we can do it by being **clamorous,** from which may the good God of heaven save us.

(22). **A Fool by Prating.** "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall" (Prov. 10:8). "He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow; but a prating fool shall fall" (Prov. 10:10).

A "prater" is one who just talks, talks, and talks all the time and says nothing. "Stem-winding talkers", those who just chatter and prattle all day long generally just "beat the air" and say nothing, but it is so restful to all around when they are asleep or dead. We should not forget that God says "A prater is a FOOL."

(23). **A Fool by a Bad Mouth Near to Destruction.** "Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction" (Prov. 10:14).

A bad mouth, a black tongue, a foul mouth is one of the worst things this world ever had to contend with, and all creation is full of them. A FOOL just talks and says such bad things that his life is continually in danger,

making him near death all the time. It certainly is bad to be a FOOL.

(24). **A Fool by Uttering Slander.** "He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth slander is a fool" (Prov. 10:18).

When God says it is a FOOL that uttereth slander, it does seem that people would realize it and never say one word that would make life harder for another. Telling slanderous things never reformed one transgressor, and for that reason he is not helped, but by not telling it a way remains by which to teach him, to lift him, to save him. That minute you tell a slanderous thing about any one you have lost all opportunity to help him. After that he never will hear you, but will avoid you as he would a barrel of rattlesnakes, for you are more dangerous to him than the snakes could possibly be. We trust that every one who reads these lines will get down upon his knees and look into the face of that God Who said a slanderer is a FOOL, and promise Him that never again will he ever become a fool by uttering slander. The FOOL is just as mean as is the ADULTERER, and you are a fool if you utter slander.

(25). **A Fool for Getting Sport out of Mischief.** "It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom" (Prov. 10:23).

Some people seem never to be happy unless they are in some mischief, that being their sport, but all such people are fools, big fools. Persons with a worthwhile purpose in life never waste their time in doing mischievous things.

(26). **A Fool by Proclaiming Foolishness.** "A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools pro-

claimeth foolishness" (Prov. 12:23). "The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly" (Prov. 14:24). "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness" (Prov. 15:2). "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather of giving of thanks" (Eph. 5:4).

A fool is known by his foolishness. A man with a Christian purpose has no time for foolish talking, for he remembers that in the judgment he has to account for every idle word. See Matt. 12:36.

(27). **A Fool by Laying Open His Folly.** "Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly" (Prov. 13:16).

A FOOL daily advertises his folly, thinking it is smartness, but wise people see it from another angle. God calls such people FOOLS, and we believe He knows.

There is more Scripture concerning this kind of a fool. Read it: "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit" (Prov. 26:4, 5). "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly" (Prov. 26:11).

As much as is possible a fool should not be answered according to his folly, for it puts one down upon a common level with him, but there are times when he must be answered according to his folly "to take the starch out of him", to use a common expression.

(28). **A Fool by Thinking It is an Abomination To Depart from Evil.** "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil" (Prov. 13:19).

From this we learn that fools think it is all right to sin, and they think people very ordinary if they will not do mean and dirty things. When any one tells you that it is all right to do any sinful thing, just remember that God calls that person a fool, and that he should be avoided, for he is very dangerous.

(29). **A Fool by Plucking Down Houses Built by the Wise.** "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands" (Prov. 14:1).

Wise people are builders, doing constructive work, work that will last throughout the years, but there are fools in every community who glory in tearing down the good work of the righteous. Every man who would say one damaging word about a good person is a fool, according to this Scripture.

(30). **A Fool by Having a Rod of Pride in the Mouth.** "In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them" (Prov. 14:3).

"A rod of pride in the mouth" is a peculiar statement, yet it expresses a wonderful thought, doing it as no other expression might do it. God knows how to say the best things in the best ways. This expression shows the person, the fool, not only to be proud, but he possesses that spirit to drive others, to whip them around with his lash-like tongue. The world is certainly full of that kind of fools. We see and hear them every day.

(31). **A Fool by not Having the Lips of Knowledge.** "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge" (Prov. 14:7).

This kind of a fool never instructs others by his conversation. He has no knowledge to impart, or he talks other things, and does not impart it. There are many

well informed people who might be very instructive, but they are so filled with foolishness, are such fools, that they talk things which edify not. From such FOOLS God says we should go, as they waste our time, and quickly lower our standard of living.

(32). **A Fool by Mocking at Sin.** "Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favor" (Prov. 14:9).

To mock at sin means to condone it, to like it, to love it, and to do it. God says such people are fools. There is but one way to fully overcome sin, and that is to hate it enough to throw all the life against it.

(33). **A Fool by Deceit.** "The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his ways: but the folly of fools is deceit" (Prov. 14:8).

Go to the ends of the earth to keep out of the way of a deceitful person, if there is no other way to avoid him. Make friends with snakes, anything under the sun, except with a deceitful, lying soul, for there is no way of telling the harm one such person can do another. Frankness, and not deceit, is what honest people want. They are afraid of FOOLS.

(34). **A Fool by Being a Confident Rager.** "A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident" (Prov. 14:16).

All of us have heard FOOLS rage. All **raging** is done by FOOLS. Intelligent people may be ever so provoked, but, if they are Christians, they never RAGE. Calmly they express themselves, meaning what they say, but **raging** is as far from such people as the sun is from the moon. They simply do not do it. RAGERS should be colonized, and allowed to **rage** themselves to death out where decent

people do not have to be annoyed by their foolism.

(35). **A Fool by Despising Father's Instruction.** "A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent" (Prov. 15:5).

So few children these days regard their parents at all. They soon think they know far more than they do. Regardless of how brilliant a child may be, his parents have had experience that he needs, and he is a FOOL, if he does not seek and appreciate it. Parents, however, are largely to blame for the way they are treated by their children. The right one is not boss, whatever that word means.

(36). **A fool by Not Dispersing Knowledge.** "The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so" (Prov. 15:7).

We are indebted to others; we do not live just for ourselves. We should make the world wiser and better by our having lived in it, and it can be done by dispersing knowledge. Each one, in a way, should be a teacher, helping others to understand the great things of life.

(37). **A Fool by Feeding on Foolishness.** "The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness" (Prov. 15:14).

It is bad enough when one lives to eat, but far worse when he lives on foolishness. However, some seem to thrive on such food. They seek it as the hog does the acorn, and are never filled, never satisfied, if they do not find it. If we eat foolishness, naturally enough we are FOOLS. A genuine fool would certainly suffer sitting at the feet of Plato.

(38). **A Fool by Despising Mother.** "A wise son mak-

eth a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother" (Prov. 15:20).

Of all the fools among fools, this is one of the worst. When a son or daughter despises mother, that soul is not fit to live in this or in any other world. Mother may be ever so poor, ever so homely, speak the poorest of English, but there is no other in all the world like mother. Read the following from the SUNSHINE MESSENGER:

"If she smiles when things go wrong
Or lifts her voice in praiseful song,
It's mother.
If she's patient all the day,
Kind and good in every way,
It's mother.
If only one can sympathize,
When all the rest just criticise,
It's mother.
If her prayers ascend each day,
That son or daughter may not stray,
It's mother.
If I might choose from all the world,
I'd choose just one—that sweet old girl,
My mother."

(39). **A Fool by Thinking Instruction is Folly.** "Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly" (Prov. 16:22).

Fools do not think that instruction should be given to any one, and they certainly will not receive it. It is such a terrbile thing to be a fool, and worse to be one and not know it.

(40). **A Fool by Not Using Excellent Speech.** "Excellent speech becometh not a fool; much less do lying lips a prince" (Prov. 17:7).

Not many look well to their language to see that it is correct. We know a man holding four University degrees, a highly educated man, but he continues to study grammars and other English books by various authors, priding himself in the beautiful and correct English which he uses. Here God commends such, and calls anyone a fool who does not use "excellent speech." It will be a happy day when all realize that it is really **sinful** to use incorrect language. Do you say It cannot be sinful, that it is not? Well, God just called a man a FOOL who does not use **excellent speech.**

(41). **A Fool for Not Profiting by Correction.** "A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool" (Prov. 17:10).

It is such a pity to be so little that when a mistake is made correction is not acceptable. There are many people whom you must never tell their imperfections, for if you do, they retort with some mean thing about you, if they have to imagine it, which generally they do. A strong and wise person takes reprimand kindly, thanks you, and profits by it. They are very few in this world. The average person gets mad, but God says he is a FOOL.

(42). **A Fool by Having Worse Than a Bear-Spirit to Injure Others.** "Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly" (Prov. 17:12).

You do not have to be a close observer to see the bear in a fool. The pity of it is, God here shows the fool to be much worse than the meanest, most angry bear, the bear robbed of her whelps, the bear ready to die to rescue her

own. However, it is not overdrawn, for God never does such a thing. The fool is simply more bear than is the bear.

(43). **A Fool for Having no Heart to Get Wisdom.** "Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it" (Prov. 17:16)?

This kind of a fool is lacking in desire for wisdom. He is prefectly satisfied in his ignorance, in his lack of wisdom, and will not pay the least price for it. To him wisdom has no value.

(44). **A Fool by Having His Eyes in the Ends of the Earth, Looking far Away for Better Things, and not Using Near-by Opportunities.** "Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth" (Prov. 17:24).

Fools are always looking for the gold at the other end of the rainbow. They are restless, never settled, running from pillar to post, as the saying goes, ever believing it is better elsewhere, and they never use the golden opportunities all around them. Yes, God calls them FOOLS. Use the opportunities near you, and those far away will come to you.

(45). **A Fool by not Holding His Peace.** "Even a fool when he holdeth his peace is counted wise; and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding" (Prov. 17:28).

A fool is not a peaceable character. He is a peace-breaker. He does not know what it means to be treated wrongfully and keep his mouth shut. He explodes like a bombshell to the disturbing of the whole community, whereas a wise man may be maltreated, but the community seldom hears of it, for he does not talk much. Jesus

said: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9). God's children are **peacemakers,** and fools are **peace-breakers.** There is a big difference between the two classes. Peter is very expressive on this subject: "For he that would love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him eschew (hate) evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it" (1 Peter 3:10, 11). We are happy that he speaks here of "ensuing peace", for if he had said, "pursue peace", we would think of one's running after something far ahead of him, as a dog pursues a rabbit, but to "ensue peace", one is not running after that which is in the distance, but he is living IN PEACE.

(46). **A Fool by not Delighting in Understanding.** "A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself" (Prov. 18:2).

Delighting in understanding is just to love it, want it, so hunger for it that any price is paid to obtain it. Parents should begin early teaching their children to love understanding, to put forth every effort to acquire it, and in this way many would be saved from being fools. However, there are some born fools, and it is impossible to create in them a desire for understanding. You cannot educate a stick, you can a terrapin, but not a STICK. When a person really and truly wants an education, there are not enough devils in all the universe to prevent his getting it. He may have to work on the farm or in the store sixteen hours a day, and read two hours late in the night by a pine-knot fire, but he will get his education. He is wise, but others are FOOLS.

(47). **A Fool by Being Contentious, Whose Mouth**

Calleth for Strokes. "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes" (Prov. 18:6).

If there ever was a nuisance in all of the world, it is a contentious person, one that will so provoke by his contentions that he causes fights. The world is full of such fools, and God in calling them by that name did not fail to express just what they are. A man in the lower regions would not be much worse off than the poor, unfortunate mortal, who has to live daily with a contentious companion.

(48). **A Fool by Using His Mouth to His Own Destruction.** "A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul" (Prov. 18:7).

There have been hundreds and thousands of divorce cases and there will be as many more, all due to the fact that one of the two talked his or her fool-self into ruination, to the everlasting disgust of the other. Sometimes a husband actually slanders his own innocent wife, and a God-forsaken wife slanders her innocent husband until he becomes so everlastingly disgusted that he loathes her, and cannot divorce her fast enough. That is being a fool to his or her destruction, and there are many other ways to bring about the same results.

(49). **A Fool by Having Perverse Lips, by Crossing Everybody Else.** "Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool" (Prov. 19:1).

This kind of a fool will argue for the wrong side just to be perverse or different from others. May our dear Lord pity such nuisances, such unbearable FOOLS.

(50). **A Fool by Fretting Against the Lord.** "The

foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord" (Prov. 19:3).

To this kind of a fool it is either too wet, too dry, or he is too poor, or too something else, and he blames God for it all. You do not have to search much to find some FOOL grumbling at the way God does things.

(51). **A Fool Because Delight is Not Seemly to Him.** "Delight is not seemly to a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes" (Prov. 19:10).

A fool delights in nothing good; life is nothing to him; he is a time-waster.

(52). **A Fool by Meddling.** "It is an honor for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling" (Prov. 20:3). The following story is timely here:" 'Stop sniffling, little boy. Can't you do something with your nose?' the austere old lady asked on the crowded street car. 'Yes'm', returned the lad politely, 'I can keep it out of other folks' business'."

There are many who do not know how to keep out of other people's business, but all such, according to God's Word, are FOOLS. A busy man will find that it will take all of his time to attend to half of his own business, and the other half is never attended to, which means he has no time to look after the business of others.

(53). **A Fool by Being a Spend-Thrift.** "There is treasure to be desired, and oil in the dwelling of the wise: but a foolish man spendeth it up" (Prov. 21:20).

Did you ever hear of a spendthrift fool? Do you think there are many of them? The woods are full of them. If all the wasted money of this world were used to feed, clothe, and educate orphans, they would be the most fortunate people of the earth, parents or no parents.

Just think of all the money wasted in tobacco, strong drink, fountain-drinks, and for so many other useless things being thrown away daily. However, a spendthrift is one who "blows his money", as the saying goes. God says "He is a FOOL."

(54). **A Fool by Foolishness Bound in the Heart.** "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:15).

This is a born-fool, which is very unfortunate, but we are happy that wise punishment can drive it out of his heart while he is yet a child. We have so many grown-up fools because they are never corrected by the rod. People believe now in growing fools instead of using the rod.

(55). **A Fool by Thinking Foolishness.** "The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men" (Prov. 24:9). Hear Solomon again along this same line: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7).

If a man is what he thinks, and he thinks foolishness, then he is a fool. It is such a pity that any one will make himself a FOOL by thinking foolishness, when there are so many good and lovely things about which to think. Paul in the following tells us what to think: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8). Thinking on these beautiful things does not make fools. Jesus tells us about the thoughts of fools: "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart (from thinking); and they defile the man. For out of the heart

proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man" (Matt. 15:18-20). We feel confident now that you well understand how one makes himself a fool by thinking about rotten things.

(56). **A Fool for not Liking Honor.** "As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not seemly for a fool" (Prov. 26:1). "As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honor to a fool" (Prov. 26:8).

Some people are so dishonorable that they loathe honor. You cannot bestow honor upon a fool, for it makes him a bigger fool. We have seen honor thrust upon fools, and they became worse than Judas, if such is possible, for they have not as yet hanged themselves.

(57). **A Fool by Making Unsafe a Message in His Care.** "He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool, cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage" (Prov. 26:6).

Never trust a message nor a secret to a fool, for if you do, you suffer all kinds of broken legs and damages. If there is anything worse than a fool, it is fools.

(58). **A Fool By Not Being Able To Use Parables.** "The legs of the lame are not equal; so is a parable in the mouth of fools" (Prov. 26:7). "As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools" (Prov. 26:9).

The use of parables is one of the highest, noblest, and sublimest ways of presenting thoughts, but the method is too high for fools. To use parables, one must exercise his mind in the highest channels of thinking, but the fool does not do that, he spends all of his time thinking foolishness.

(59). **A Fool Because Foolishness Cannot Be Beaten Out of Him.** "Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him" (Prov. 27:22).

When a man is beaten all to pieces as is represented here, and his foolishness yet remains, he is one hopeless case, and we wonder not that God calls him a fool. There are just such people, those that all manner of punishment can never reform.

(60). **A Fool by Trusting in His Own Heart.** "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered" (Prov. 28:26).

This kind of a fool is what is known as a "know-all" man, a very hopeless case. He is almost beyond redemption. He has the "big head" and is a nuisance to all whom he meets. He thinks what he does not know is not worth knowing and, as mentioned in Job, he thinks that when he is dead, wisdom will also be dead. This is one of the largest classes of fools we have in all the world. They are on all the street corners—everywhere. They regard neither God nor man. They cannot be instructed, cannot be helped in any way. It would not even do any good to kill them, for they would be just as big fools after as before. See Ecle. 9:3. Such fools think that their duty is to instruct others, though they know nothing to impart. We have been compelled to listen to such when it was very discomforting, most ruinous to our digestive organs, but courtesy compelled us to hear them. We were glad when we were freed from such boredom.

(61). **A Fool by Being a Nuisance to Others.** "If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest" (Prov. 29:9).

To be a pest to everybody you meet is one of the worst things that can come to one in this life, and that is what this kind of a fool is. No one wants to see him, wants to be with him, wants to have anything to do with him. He is in a bad plight, pitifully so.

(62). **A Fool by Uttering All of His Mind.** "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards" (Prov. 29:11). "For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words" (Ecle. 5:3). "A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be: and what shall be after him, who can tell him" (Ecle. 10:14)?

The wiser and more cultured one is, the less he talks, but when he does speak he has something to say. It is not so with a "rattle-box fool", for he talks all the time, a "stem-winder", as the saying goes, and says nothing when he talks. A fool talks too much to have time to think. It is hard for some to realize that the time ever comes when "silence is golden."

(63). **A Fool by Being Unbearable When Filled With Meat.** "For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear: for a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat" (Prov. 30:21, 22).

If a fool is nice and courteous at all, it is to get his fill of what he wants, and after that he shows the FOOL that he is. We have seen many such fools.

(64). **A Fool by Pride and Evil Thinking.** "If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth" (Prov. 30:32).

We have studied before the proud fool, and the fool

for evil thinking, but here we have the "two-in-one fool", both proud and rotten in his thoughts, making him one of the very worst of fools.

(65). **A Fool by Walking in Darkness.** "The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all" (Ecle. 2:14).

In the following Jesus tells us why some walk in darkness: "And this is the condemnation, that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (Jno. 3:19).

All fools are wicked and all the wicked are fools, so all are lovers of darkness. The Christian life is the only kind on earth that will bear the test of the light, that will dare live and thrive in the light. Paul in speaking of the works of Christ and Christianity, said: "This thing was not done in a corner" (Acts 26:26). There is nothing in Christianity that has to be lived under cover. It thrives in darkness or in light, and it is the only thing that does.

(66). **A Fool by Mixing Wisdom, Madness, and Folly.** "And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done. Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness. Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even unto me: and why was I then wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity" (Ecle. 2:12, 13, 15).

We cannot serve God and mammon, but fools try to mix wisdom, madness, and folly, although the combination is poisonous, dangerous, and deathly. They will not work together. We must be either good or bad.

(67). **A Fool for Laziness and Eating His Own Flesh.** "The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh" (Ecle. 4:5).

The world has never had a place for a lazy man. When a person is so everlastingly lazy that he will eat his own flesh before he will work and earn a living, he is a fool too big for the Devil to make him feel at home in outer darkness, for Satan works, and we may rest assured that there is no place prepared for him in that home above by Him "Who went about doing good."

(68). **A Fool-King Who Will Not Be Admonished.** "Better is a poor and wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished" (Ecle. 4:13).

We are not surprised when ordinary people refuse admonition, but we are when a king is such a big fool that he thinks he knows it all, is thoroughly conceited, and no man is allowed to advise him. He is no longer worthy of being a ruler of the people—HE IS A FOOL.

(69). **A Fool by Thinking He is Sinless.** "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil" (Ecle. 5:1).

If a person is a FOOL when he thinks he is SINLESS, the whole world is abloom with fools in this year of our Lord nineteen hundred twenty-nine, for myriads are claiming that very thing, and those who do not openly say they are sinless believe it, because you dare not tell one of them that he has made a mistake, if you do not care to be insulted. Hear John on the SINLESS ONES: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 Jno. 1:8). John here was speaking of Christians, including himself, saying all are deceived and liars, if

they claim to be sinless. Only FOOLS, God teaches us, say they do no evil. Listen carefully a few days, and you will hear the voice of a fool.

(70). **A Fool by Being in the House of Mirth.** "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning: but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth" (Ecle. 7:4).

The house of mirth is where they play all kinds of games, play cards and a hundred and one other games, drink wines, gamble, have a good time, "just passing away the time", but God says such people are FOOLS. Hear God again on this subject: "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them (Old Testament Israel in the wilderness); as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play" (1 Cor. 10:7). Here God reprimanded His people for eating His food, drinking His water, and then rising up to play, to use His strength thus given just "to pass away the time." In our day the churches have been turned into places to play, the whole world is now a "play-ground", and just as surely as we live we are growing a large crop of FOOLS, grieving God, for people generally are losing interest in the Church bought by the blood of Jesus Christ, and PARENTS ARE BLAMABLE FOR IT. If they send their children to some Bible School, they are instructed not to remain for church-service, telling them that two hours is too long for them to be at church, as they will get so tired, and thus they are making the Bible School, hitherto one of the best feeders the Church ever had, the greatest enemy of the Church. If your child is not to remain at Church but one hour, in the name of the God of heaven Who purchased the Church with the blood of His Son (Acts 20:28) let that hour be the worshipful hour, the regular

service, for otherwise your child will never know the benefits bestowed by the Church of our God.

Do please remember that if fun, mirth, a good time, much playing is what you want, what you have, you, according to GOD, are a FOOL, a big FOOL, a hundred per cent FOOL. God pity all such, we pray.

(71). **A Fool by Singing Bad Songs.** "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools" (Ecle. 7:5).

Christians sing only such songs or hymns as praise the Lord, and not for their lives would they defile their mouths with dirty songs, but fools delight in singing just that kind all of the time. Every time you hear any one, man or woman, sing any song not worshipful, just remember God says that person is a FOOL.

(72). **A Fool by Displeasing Laughter.** "For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity" (Ecle. 7:6).

No one can do a more lovely thing than to smile or laugh in a genuine way, a Christian way, but the laugh of a fool is one of the most empty, most disgusting things in all the world. You can hear a fool laugh two blocks away. Loud laughing (or talking) and a fool go together. Such fools are greatly in evidence, thinking their noise commends them to others, but it certainly does not to cultured people.

(73). **A Fool by Resting Anger in the Bosom, by Holding Malice.** "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the heart of fools" (Ecle. 7:9).

There are people who hold malice for years and years, never forgiving till frightened into it by death, which is not genuine, but, according to God, they are FOOLS, and

we feel sure that He knows. The heart of this kind of a fool is the home of wrath, of malice, and he would be miserable if he were at peace with everybody. We trust our readers will make a self-examination here, and if they find they are harboring malice in their hearts against others, that they will know they are fools in God's sight, and forgive every enemy at once, be fools no longer.

(74). **A Fool by a Left (wrong) Heart.** "A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left" (Ecle. 10:2).

The "left" here represents the wrong kind of a heart, a sin-filled heart, a heart that deviseth meanness, a heart always averse to every good thing and to all good people. It is a FOOL'S heart.

(75). A **Fool by Saying All Others Are Fools.** "Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool" (Ecle. 10:3).

This kind of a fool has much company, for the majority of people are so everlastingly conceited that they think all others are fools. When one looks through black glasses, the whole bright, sunny world is "outer darkness", and a fool sees nothing but fools. As soon as a person tells us what he thinks of others in general, we have his number then and there.

(76). **A Fool by Swallowing Up Self, by Thinking Too Much of Self.** "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious: but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself" (Ecle. 10:12).

Before this we found one a fool, because he was too lazy to work and ate his own flesh, but the fool under consideration here is so conceited that he swallows him-

self. It is not much trouble to find people all of whom you can see is a little piece of themselves sticking up out of their own wide mouths. You may think out the entire picture as you walk up and down the thoroughfares of life, viewing this kind of a fool.

(77). **A Fool by Beginning with Foolishness, and Ending in Madness.** "The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness" (Ecle. 10:13).

Generally when one begins with so very much mirth, foolish mirth, he ends in a mad fit. Such a person is a fool. Such a person is to be avoided, as he is dangerous, in no way dependable. You never know one minute what to expect of a fool the next.

(78). **A Fool by not Knowing How to go to the City, by Being Demented.** "The labor of the foolish wearieth every one of them: because he knoweth not how to go to the city" (Ecle. 10:15).

This kind of a fool needs all of the sympathy he can get, for he is most unfortunate, being partially demented. He may have been born thus or it may have come upon him from some disease or from some abuse he has given his body. Regardless of how it came, he is to be pitied. It is hard to conceive a more pitiful plight into which one might be brought than this demented condition. It is simply terrible beyond description. An insane asylum presents the saddest condition known in all the world, except the condition of a lost soul. That is the worst of all.

(79). **A Fool by Being Brutish.** "Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I

am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings" (Isa. 19:11)?

A man is a fool when he is brutish to a cat, a dog, a cow, a horse, to an unfortunate worm, much less to his wife, to his neighbor, to any one, but there are many fool-brutes left in the world, those who regard neither God nor man, as the Master said.

(80). **A Fool by Getting Others To Sin.** "The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof" (Isa. 19:13).

It is bad enough to be any kind of a fool, but one of the worst of them all is this fool, not satisfied at his own wicked, wasted, rotten life, but, Devil-like, walks up and down the earth to see how many innocent boys he may lead astray, how many pure girls he may start to ruination. There are hundreds of pure, good, pleasing boys, who would remain clean and Christian, were it not for cigaret-sucking fools that cross their paths, flooding the same with all the filth of the lower world, and debauching souls as white as snow. Such fools never know the sin-rot they sow, the hearts they break, the premature graves they fill, the souls they send to the Devil, neither do they care.

Every pure girl that went astray was started by some other fool-girl or some fool-boy, not satisfied at being a fool, but, like misery, wanted company at the expense of the souls they damned. Beware of bad company. Every bad person is a fool. Snakes are far better company.

(81). **A Fool by Being Sottish and Wise To Do Evil.** "For my people are foolish, they have not known Me; they are sottish children, and they have none understand-

ing: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (Jer. 4:22).

A "sottish fool" is a **drunkard-blockhead,** a very low, very degraded fool, one that wallows in the mire, one that is dirty, one that sees only the very lowest side of life. "Two men stood behind the bars; one saw mud, and the other saw stars." The fool under consideration sees mud: neither he nor the buzzard ever saw the stars.

This fool is "wise to do evil." It is an awful thing when a person uses all of his education, all of his wisdom, in doing the mean things of life, just doing his very best to see how sinful he can be, but such is the "sottish fool", the one we are studying at this time. It is very hard to understand how any one that was ever decent at all can fall so low as to be a "sottish fool", but God here describes him. He is loathed by God and man, but many miserable, pitiful wives have had to contend with these FOOLS of the lowest type, most dirty type.

(82). **A Fool by Not Knowing the Way of the Lord nor His Judgments.** "Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the Lord, nor the judgment of their God" (Jer. 5:4).

Since ignorance of the Bible makes us fools, we surely do have many of them, because very few people study that Book. Paul said: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). According to this, if one does not study the Bible, he is not approved unto God (that is why he is a fool), he should be ashamed, and he is unable to properly divide the truth. Jesus commanded the following: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are

they which testify of Me" (Jno. 5:39). The Bible's being so great and man's only guide from this world into the heavenly life, we can easily see how a person is a FOOL, if he does not study it, if he does not know it.

(83). **A Fool by Being Without Understanding, Having Eyes That See Not, and Ears That Hear Not.** "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; that have eyes, and see not; that have ears, and hear not" (Jer. 5:21).

Few of us know the value of our eyes and ears, and for that reason we act the FOOL by not using them. If all people had used their eyes and ears in the time of Christ on earth, He would not have been crucified. If all were to use them now, Christ would be accepted and served by all. This Scripture has reference to His being rejected. Therefore, all people out of Christ have made the wrong use of their eyes and ears, and are FOOLS, according to the Scripture. If you are not a Christian, we advise you to become one.

(84). **A Fool by Vanity-Doctrine.** "But they are altogether brutish and foolish; the stock is a doctrine of vanity" (Jer. 10:8).

The Bible furnishes all the doctrine this world needs for salvation of the soul, and a person is a FOOL when he presents any other doctrine. God calls counterfeit doctrines "Vanity-doctrines." In other words, they are vain, useless, and the author is a fool.

(85). **A Fool by Ill Gotten Wealth.** "As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool" (Jer. 17:11).

Just think of the thousands and millions of people in

this world who rob, cheat, and by all kinds of deceptive, dishonest methods extort from others their means, their holdings, and count themselves wise, great, and wonderful in being able thus to take that which is not their own. Every person in this world who holds one penny that rightfully belongs to another is a FOOL, if God knows what a fool is, and we think He does. We should be honest, and earn by the "sweat of the face" our holdings. That is far better than being a FOOL, and going to Satan.

(86). **Fool-Prophets by Following Their Own Spirits, and Seeing Nothing.** "Thus saith the Lord God, Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing" (Eze. 13:3)!

Many false prophets has the Devil sent into this world, and by them millions have been deceived to their everlasting ruination, because there are so few people who read and study the Scriptures daily to know the truth. Every false prophet, and every false teacher is a FOOL, and the host of them is innumerable. Before we teach others we better be most sure that we know the truth just as it is, that we are leading others in the way that leads to God and home, for otherwise we are fools, deceived and being deceived, as the apostle expressed it.

(87). **Fool-Prophets by Feeding Themselves, and Not Their Flocks.** "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds, Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks" (Eze. 34:2)? "And the Lord said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd: for, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, who shall not visit those that be cut off, neither

shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still; but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces" (Zech. 11:15, 16).

There are so many preachers to-day who care more for their pay-check each week or month than they do for the flocks that it is most appalling, just woefully so. With few exceptions, the members of the Church are just about what the minister makes them. He can have them good or bad, active or inactive in the cause. The great trouble is, the average preacher is so everlastingly lazy that he cares nothing about his flock, lets them go to the Devil, while he sits around, smokes a dirty cigar, and waits for the next pay-day. Such preachers fail not to feed themselves, but their sheep and lambs die of starvation. A lazy preacher never gives out any real soul-food in his sermons, for he never puts any such thing into them, he is waiting for his pay-check at the end of the month, which, to him, is always a long time coming. A preacher worth mentioning is always out among his people, looking after their every interest, suffering with those who suffer, sorrowing with those who sorrow, rejoicing with those who are happy, and keeping their interest in the kingdom high at all times. Such ministers God has never called FOOLS.

(88). **A Fool by Not Knowing the Temple Sanctifieth the Gold.** "Woe unto you, ye blind guides, who say, whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor. Ye fools, and blind! for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold" (Matt. 23:16, 17).

The Pharisees and Scribes had gotten things badly mixed, putting the gold in the temple above the temple, not knowing that the temple sanctified the gold, and though they claimed to be the very embodiment of wisdom, they were FOOLS, said Christ.

(89). **A Fool by Not Knowing the Altar Sanctifieth the Gift.** "And, whosoever sweareth by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon the altar, he is guilty. Ye fools, and blind! for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift" (Matt. 23:18, 19).

These are fools again for getting the altar and the gift mixed, not knowing which was the greater, which sanctified the other. It is bad to be a fool, regardless of what makes us one.

(90). **A Fool for Sleeping Before Putting Oil Into the Lamps.** "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went forth to meet the Bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the Bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a great cry made, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also

the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not" (Matt. 25:1-12).

Christ is teaching here that every one who neglects to become a Christian while the opportunity is his, it will be too late for him to obey his Lord after He comes to the judgment, and at that time he will have to realize all so sorrowfully that he had never been anything but a fool. Wise people "seek first the kingdom of God", but fools put it off and die "without God, and without hope in the world." Are you a Christian? If not, have you not done the unwise thing long enough? Accept Jesus Christ this very day.

(91). **A Fool for Thinking He Can Feed His Soul on Corn.** "And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool! this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided" (Luke 12:16-20)?

Herein lies the trouble with most people to-day. They verily believe they can feed their souls on corn. They never give their inner lives a spiritual dinner, and their souls are famished almost beyond repair. All such people are FOOLS, said the Master, and they are making a living and not a life, the worst mistake any mortal can make.

If we would realize that these temporal blessings are but a means to an end, and that the preparing for life everlasting, all would be well, but FOOLS labor only for the meat which perisheth, as Jesus expressed it.

(92). **A Fool by Being Slow To Believe God's Word.** "Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" (Luke 24:25).

This takes in another large number, for many pretend to believe the Bible, but, when thoroughly tested, they believe only such parts as are pleasing to them. The parts which condemn their wicked lives, or not in harmony with what they have always been taught by parents and others, they reject with all grace, acting as though they believe they are doing God a service. God says They are FOOLS.

(93). **A Fool by Claiming To Be Wise.** "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Rom. 1:21). "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise" (1 Cor. 3:18).

One of the weakest things the Devil ever got into human nature is the "big-head", making one think he is a Solomon when he is a FOOL. Wise people never know they are wise. They feel so little, so humble, so unworthy, there being so many things they do not know, that they do not realize what they do know. Only fools think they are wise.

(94). **A Fool for Asking How the Dead Are Raised and with What Body Do They Come.** "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body

do they come? Thou fool! that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die" (1 Cor. 15:35, 36).

We have heard quite a number of fools on this subject, and just as Paul said, they are asking how are the dead raised and with what body do they come? They rise, and that is sufficient.

(95). **A Fool for Glorying.** "I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing" (2 Cor. 12:11).

Paul here admits that he is a fool, but says circumstances had compelled him to glory in himself, in his ancestry, in his great ability, but it was far from Paul's nature to do it that way, for in this connection he confessed to be nothing. However, there are people who wilfully glory in themselves, and they are much bigger FOOLS.

(96). **A Fool for Being Bewitched by Erroneous Teachers.** "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you" (Gal. 3:1)?

A person is not excusable for not knowing the truth, for allowing himself to be deceived by false teachers. God expects us so to understand the Word that no one can deceive us, and when we fail in this, Paul says we are FOOLS. Jesus and the apostles fully warned the people concerning all kinds of false teachers, who by every conceivable method would lead astray great numbers, but only a few pay any attention to such warning, and daily thousands are dragged down and away from the truth, made FOOLS, and know it not.

(97). **A Fool for Giving up the Gospel for the Law of Moses.** "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh" (Gal. 3:3)?

Those in the Spirit were those who had obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ, and those seeking perfection by the flesh were those returning to the law of Moses, thinking that circumcision in the flesh was worth far more than the Spiritual blessings of the gospel of the Son of God. Paul called such people FOOLS. There are many clamoring for the same law now. They should be preaching the gospel of the crucified, buried, and risen Lord, leaving out none of its facts, commands, and promises.

(98). **A Fool by Lusting.** "But they that will be rich, fall into temptation, and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (1 Tim. 6:9).

There are in the world three great classes of lust, about which we read in the following: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 Jno. 2:16). Adam's wife was tempted in all of these three lusts, and so was Jesus Christ in the wilderness with the Devil, and every mortal that lives to-day is tempted in the same three ways. Adam's wife yielded, but Jesus Christ overcame, and it now remains to be seen what we shall do. If we succumb to these temptations, we are FOOLS, fools unworthy of the blessings of that eternal life with our innocent Lord.

"THE BIG FLOOD" mentioned in 1 Tim. 6:9, in the foregoing, is a great subject for a sermon. Notice again the expression: "Which DROWN men in destruction and perdition." The flood which came in the days of Noah

was nothing comparable with this PERDITION-FLOOD.

(99). **A Fool by Asking Foolish and Unlearned Questions.** "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strife" (2 Tim 2:23). "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:9).

There is always some one who wants to cavil, wants to annoy others with foolish and unlearned questions, thinking he is a Solomon, but Paul informs us that such an one is all that a FOOL means.

(100). **A Fool by Being Deceived, Disobedient, Living in Lust, Pleasure, Malice, Envy, Hateful, and Hating Others.** "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts, and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another" (Titus 3:3).

This kind is the COMBINATION-FOOL, a very vile, very bad, very dangerous FOOL. May our gracious God save us from any of the many things that would make us one or all of these one hundred FOOLS, for to be any kind of a FOOL means we are unworthy of the blessings offered in the blood and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER II

FOOLS IN GENERAL

(1). **A Foolish Nation.** "They have moved Me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked Me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation" (Deut. 32:21). "But I say, did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you" (Rom. 10:19).

The "foolish nation" here are all the Gentiles, and the Jews were angered and moved to jealousy when they were allowed to accept Christ, and enter His Church.

(2). **Abner Not a Fool.** "And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth" (2 Sam. 3:33)?

(3). **Did Not Charge God Foolishly.** "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly" (Job. 1:22).

To fools God is always foolish, but Job was far from being a fool, and to him nothing which God did or allowed Satan to do was foolish.

(4). **Fools Reproach.** "Deliver me from all my transgression; make me not the reproach of the foolish" (Psa. 39:8).

Good people seldom reproach others. They rather sympathize, help, love them into obedience, but fools delight in reproaching others. When you see any one quick to speak evil of others, you may know at once that he is vile, corrupt, has a rotten heart, and because of his own wicked, black eyes is unable to see the least good in

others. It should be the desire and prayer of all good people to be delivered from the reproach of fools.

(5). **Envying the Foolish.** "For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (Psa. 73:3).

It is a wonderment to many that God so blesses fools, the wicked in general, but He has a beautiful reason for so doing. Read it: "Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Rom. 2:4)? Read again about it: "Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:16, 17).

The first Scripture given shows that God is good to sinners, all kinds of fools, to get them to repent. If being good to a bad person when he is down in the mire and when all others have forsaken him will not interest him, will not cause him to reform, to be better, he is a hopeless case. Yes, God is good to the worst of people, hoping thereby to open their eyes, to kindle in their hearts some degree of appreciation, and thus redeem them. If all of God's blessings to sinners are to save them, if possible, why should good people not be greatly delighted, instead of finding fault with God?

The second Scripture given on this subject shows that God's goodness to sinners is to the effect that in that great judgment day God will have witness that He did His part, and no lost man can say to Him, if You had not thrown me away when I was blind in sin, this miserable

plight never would have come to me. Yes, God is faithful when we are most unfaithful, and His faithfulness will in that day witness for Him, and against us.

(6). **Confessing Foolishness.** "So foolish was I, and ignorant; I was as a beast before Thee" (Psa. 73:22).

It is rather a strong thing for fools to confess foolishness, for generally they are not that manly. Few fools have sense enough to know they are foolish. Confession is a great thing anyway. The home-made scripture on that is: "Honest confession is good for the soul." That is not in the Bible in those words, but it is a mark of greatness to confess sins, and it helps the soul every time it is done.

(7). **Blaspheming Fools.** "Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, Lord, that the foolish people have blasphemed Thy name" (Psa. 74:18).

Only a fool could be low and mean enough to blaspheme God's name. He would have to be a fool before he would be mean enough to blaspheme that worthy name of our God, but there are many foolish enough to do that very thing. A man is a fool before he can take the name of the Lord in vain in any way whatsoever. It is surprising to know how low some can be in this world.

(8). **Fools Reproaching God.** "Arise, O God, plead Thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth Thee daily" (Psa. 74:22).

This is another case like **the fool that blasphemes God's name,** he has to be a fool before he can **reproach God daily.** Numbers are so foolish as to reproach God, complain at His doings, criticise to the disgust of their hearers every lovely thing. Too, be it remembered, that we reproach God by reproaching His people. Read Matt.

25:31-46. We cannot do an unkind thing to one of God's children without doing that same thing against God. Too, every good deed done to others is as it were unto the Lord.

(9). **Fools Dealing Foolishly.** "I said unto the fools, Deal not foolishly; and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn" (Psa. 75:4).

It is hard to keep fools from acting foolishly, and to keep the wicked from lifting up the horn, wicked power, against others. Horn means "power", and all kinds of wicked devices are used to make this a worse world. The influence of sin and of sinners is a terrible force, power, against all that is called good.

(10). **The Contents of Fools Made Known.** "Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known" (Prov. 14:33).

Sin cannot always be hidden. Sooner or later it comes to light, is made known. However, the thought here is that while wisdom has a resting place in the hearts of those with understanding, there is no resting place anywhere for the contents of the hearts of fools. Fools will not let the wickedness in their hearts rest, they keep that wickedness eternally active. They are most unhappy if they are not in some devilment, as the saying goes. The busiest people on earth are fools, but they are hastening to do evil.

(11). **The Hope of Fools.** "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him" (Prov. 26:12).

A conceited man, wise in his own estimation, is worse than is the average fool. One may hope that such fools

will get their eyes open, will reform, but it is hard to have such hopes for the conceited mortal, "thinking he is wise when he knoweth nothing."

(12). **The Man Worse Than a Fool.** "Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him" (Prov. 29:20).

This is similar to the one we just studied, except in that case the fool was contrasted with a conceited person, while here the contrast is made between him and some one that talks before thinking. There are so many who act on the spur of the moment, saying and doing things which ever after they regret. Such a person is rated lower than the average fool.

(13). **A Ruling Fool.** "And who shall know whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labor wherein I have labored, and wherein I have shown myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity" (Ecle. 2:19).

It is hard to feel that after one has acted wisely, after he has wrought out many helpful things, has perfected great organizations for the general good of the people, that some fool-son, just because he is an heir, shall step in and by his unwise ruling spoil all that has been accomplished, but such frequently comes to pass, and we have to make the best of it. It seems that it would be far better for such a wise father to leave a limited amount to his fool-son, and place the remainder into the hands of the wise and good to use it to bless the world. The love one has for an unworthy son should not prevent such an arrangement.

(14). **The Wise and Fools Faring Alike.** "For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor,

that knoweth to walk before the living" (Ecle. 6:8)?

Before this we have shown that God blesses the wicked just as He does the wise, the good, doing it to draw them to Him, to lead them to repentance, to save them, and surely we shall never complain again at such mercy and love for the weak, for the unfortunate. While God blesses the wicked thus in this life, He will punish them in the next, and fill the joy-cups of the righteous to running over. Good people enjoy the necessities of life in this world, and in the next they heir all things with and through Christ, so there is no room for them to complain.

(15). **Seeking To Know Foolishness and Madness.** "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness" (Ecle. 7:25).

Solomon experimented with all kinds of foolish things, all kinds of sinful things, doing it to thoroughly test them out that he might know how bad they were and then in a greater way than had ever been done before warn the world against them. In the following he will tell you that is why he did those things: "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life" (Ecle. 2:3). Solomon has been abused and criticised in the worst possible ways for hundreds of years by sinful and so-called good people for the sinful things which he did, but our hearts melt with appreciation when we realize that he was jeopardizing his own life, his own precious soul, that he might be able to fully tell others how sinful

sin is, and eternally warn them against every unrighteous thing. Our own lives have been made so much better by our not having to experiment with certain evils, doing it to our eternal hurt, for since Solomon has tested them out, and tells us that all such is vanity, we should take his word for it, and leave them alone. In the great judgment we may learn that, more than we ever dreamed, God was back of having these things tested out for us, and that Solomon's wise conclusion after all of his experiments with sin is one of the world's most helpful things. That conclusion is: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecle. 12:13). When we learn these things about Solomon, we thank God for him, and no longer criticize.

(16). **Ruling Among Fools.** "The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools" (Ecle. 9:17).

Wise people do not have to talk loud to be heard, but some people can be heard blocks away talking. However, the thought here is, that a man ruling over fools is rated very low, people have such little confidence in him.

(17). **The Way a Fool Can Understand.** "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Isa. 35:8).

We have studied many different things about fools, and we have found one hundred different kinds of fools, but, thank God, the plan of salvation, as set forth in the Bible, is so plain that fools can understand it, leaving all without excuse. We do not need some doctor of divinity to explain the simple plan of salvation, but we need peo-

ple with the faith of a child to accept it and do what God commands.

(18). **Foolish Knowledge.** "That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish" (Isa. 44:25).

Fools think they know it all, but God has a way to show how foolish they are, how their knowledge is simply nothing.

(19). **Prophets Seeing Foolish Things.** "Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee; and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens, and causes of banishment" (Lam. 2:14).

Foolish prophets seeing foolish things, things untrue, and trying to make the people believe such things are from God have led many thousands into perdition. Only the great judgment will reveal the hurt done by false teachers, Devil-led teachers, in this world.

(20). **Calling a Brother a Fool.** "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause, shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca (vain fellow), shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt. 5:22).

Brethren in Christ have no right to call each other fools, for doing so endangers them to hell, but there are many who disregard what Jesus said, and call each other by all kinds of bad names, fools and other names.

(21). **Heart-Foolishness.** "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, de-

ceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23).

All wickedness, all foolishness, originates in the heart. If all minds were clean, we would have clean lives, and a good world.

(22). **Instructing the Foolish.** "And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, that hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law" (Rom. 2:19, 20).

Instructing the foolish is one of the biggest jobs one ever undertook in this world, but the conceited Jews thought that they were the only competent teachers on earth, and that they were doing a great work in educating fools, but they were misleading those foolish ones, teaching them the law of Moses, when they should have been teaching them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(23). **Preaching the Cross is Foolish to Those Who Perish.** "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18).

Nothing to the Jews was more unwise than to quit the law and preach Christ crucified, but things are not always as foolish as they seem. What they called foolishness was the wisest manifestation of God, Christ, and their love this old world ever knew.

(24). **The Wisdom of This World Made Foolish.** "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world" (1 Cor. 1:20)?

There are many efforts from many sources made

against the gospel of Jesus Christ and against Christianity in general, but the more the Scriptures are unbiasly compared to other literature, the more we are convinced that God's Word far outclasses all the profane writing of the world. God is simply making foolish the wisdom of this world. The Bible has been opposed, and committed to the flames, but more copies were sold last year than ever before. God's Word will never pass away. See Matt. 24:35.

(25). **Saving People by the Foolishness of Preaching.** "For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:21).

What the world calls foolishness, preaching the gospel, God is using to save believers of the truth. When God committed to human beings the preaching of the gospel to save believers, He did for them more than He ever did for angels. Truly, the greatest earthly honor ever bestowed is the preaching of Christ to this world. Because the world calls it foolishness does not mean it is common or unclean.

(26). **Preaching Christ Crucified Was Foolishness to the Greeks.** "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:23).

The Greeks, like the Jews, thought they were the wisest people that ever lived, and anything which did not originate with them was foolishness, was worthless, but the gospel of Christ has withstood all of their attacks against it while much Grecian wisdom has perished.

(27). **The Foolishness of God Wiser Than Men.** "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the

weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Cor. 1:25).

God is never foolish, but what His enemies call foolishness is far wiser than men, and for that reason the dear old Book of God lives on. When a man believes in the Bible, he should never feel any cause for shame, for as the years come and go he will find that his faith holds to the only genuine thing, the thing that will abide all the fires of persecution.

(28). **Confounding the Wise with Foolish Things.** "For God hath chosen the foolish things of the world, to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world, to confound the things which are mighty" (1 Cor. 1:27).

God chose simple and unlearned men, most of them, for apostles, and gave them such wonderful power in every way that the world's so-called wisest could not withstand them, and thus with those whom the world called foolish she was confounded, undone, and humiliated to her everlasting undoing.

(29). **Spiritual Things Are Foolishness to the Natural Man.** "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14).

There is a great gulf between the sinner and the saint, the natural man and the spiritual man. To the natural man everything spiritual is foolishness.

(30). **The Wisdom of This World is Foolishness with God.** "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God: for it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness" (1 Cor. 3:19).

The wisdom of this world is nothing in God's sight,

but we poor fools have a hard time realizing it. We think there will be little or no wisdom when we are dead. We do not know what fools we are.

(31). **Fools for Christ's Sake.** "We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised" (1 Cor. 4:10).

These are not literal fools, but are thought by the world to be. If Christians were as big fools as sinners think they are, they would be worse than barbarian. It is wonderful that saints are not to be judged by the world.

(32). **Thinking Paul a Fool.** "I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little" (2 Cor. 11:16).

Most of the Jews thought Paul was the worst fool that ever lived, and they failed not to treat him as such, but he meekly suffered it for Jesus Christ just as all Christians have to do. "If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him."

(33). **The Foolishness of Boasting.** "That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting" (2 Cor. 11:17).

Paul realized that it was foolish to boast, and wanted the people to know the Lord was not blamable for his doing it, but it was done to offset the criticism of his enemies, who would make the world think that Paul was nothing. Therefore, some liberty is allowed God's children in doing certain things, which ordinarily they would not do, circumstances playing a big part.

(34). **The Wise Suffering Fools.** "For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise" (2 Cor. 11:19).

Paul is saying here that if his enemies were as wise as

they pretend, they would suffer him as a fool by being patient with him, and by hearing his side of the question. Surely any wise man will hear others who differ from him.

(35). **Paul's Speaking Foolishly.** "I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also" (2 Cor. 11:21).

Paul here wanted his enemies to know that he had just as much in his ancestry of which to boast as they did, but he failed not to tell them that he was foolish in so boasting, which is the most modest way of calling them fools.

(36). **Paul's Speaking as a Fool.** "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft" (2 Cor. 11:23).

Here we have some of the smoothest irony ever written. While Paul showed that in his ancestry he had as much of which to boast as did his enemies, he quickly jumped from that phase of the subject and boasted of having suffered so much at their wicked hands, yet speaking as would a fool in their sight.

(37). **Paul Not a Fool if He Gloried.** "For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me" (2 Cor. 12:6).

Paul is saying that if he gloried, he would not be a fool, for he had done and suffered so much for Christ that God in His graciousness would permit him to glory, that it is all right when one tells the truth to do it. The

way Paul did this was another great reprimand, for he was showing that all glorying and boasting should be over things done and suffered for Christ, neither of which his enemies could boast, for they had done the opposite, being enemies to the cross of Christ.

(38). **Not Walking As Fools.** "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise" (Eph. 5:15).

Christians are not to walk as fools. They are to walk in a way that all seeing them will know they have been with Jesus. A Christian by his beautiful life is an "epistle known and read of all men." See 2 Cor. 3:2. The beautiful life of a saint is the greatest sermon ever preached by men or angels.

(39). **The Children of Fools.** "I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation. His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to deliver them" (Job 5:3, 4).

Living the life of a fool is a poor way to insure the lives of children, but God blesses the children of the righteous. Solomon was blessed, allowed to retain his kingdom, because his father David was a good man. The children of fools do not have such Divine protection.

(40). **It Is Useless To Teach Fools.** "Speak not in the ears of a fool; for he will despise the wisdom of thy words" (Prov. 23:9).

The fool's ears are closed to instruction. He thinks that he is knowledge personified, that some Solomon would be a pigmy by his side. Fools do not have listening ears for good things.

(41). **Foolish Builders.** "And every one that heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand:

and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matt. 7:26, 27).

Fools care little or nothing about the foundation on which they build in this world. They expect to be saved regardless of how, where, and on what they build, but Jesus in this Scripture teaches that it does not pay to be a fool.

CHAPTER III

FOOLS CAUSING OTHERS TO SUFFER

(1). **A Foolish Son the Heaviness of His Mother.** "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother" (Prov. 10:1).

Only the good Lord knows how many hearts of mothers have been broken by fool-sons. Mothers have seen their sons break the law and have to hang, or die in the electric chair, the mothers suffering more than the dying sons. How any one can do the least thing to grieve mother is hard to understand, for there is no better earthly friend.

(2). **A Companion of Fools Destroyed.** "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20).

The death penalty is the consequence, the result, of keeping company with fools. Bad company is the worst thing that can come to one in this life, for it always means ruination, and great suffering. We should walk with the wise, profit by their wisdom, and bless the world. Stay away from fools as you would that many devils.

(3). **The Sorrow from Begetting a Fool.** "He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow; and the father of a fool hath no joy" (Prov. 17: 21).

Hardly a worse thing can befall a man in this life than to be the father of a fool. It means the remainder of his days must be spent in tears, in disappointment. If sons would live at all times the beautiful, Christian lives they should, their parents would have cause for great rejoicing.

(4). **Grief and Bitterness Because of a Foolish Son.** "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him" (Prov. 17:25).

This is along the same line as was the one we studied a few minutes ago, that it is very unfortunate to have a fool-son in the family.

(5). **A Foolish Son the Calamity of His Father.** "A foolish son is the calamity of his father; and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping" (Prov. 19:13).

It does not say that a foolish son is "a" calamity of the father, but it is "the" calamity of the father, showing that no greater misfortune can come upon a parent than to have a fool-son. A foolish son and a contentious wife are put into the same class.

CHAPTER IV

THE SEVEN SINS OF A FOOL

(1). **Disobedience.** "For we ourselves also were sometime foolish, disobedient" (Titus 3:3).

We may disobey the laws of the country, a very foolish thing to do, for it means the suffering of the penalty of the laws disobeyed. Every citizen of a country should pride himself in obeying the civil law, for that is the best possible way to show appreciation for his fatherland. Disobeying the law of the land makes one a fool-citizen, a very unworthy one.

It is possible to disobey the laws of nature, and make fools of ourselves. Pardon may be found on certain conditions when other laws are disobeyed, but Nature never forgives. Sinning against nature is one unpardonable sin. Therefore, any one is a fool to break the laws of health. Paul was speaking of this nature-law when he said: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

Parents are frequently disobeyed, but not without penalty. If they are "unmerciful" enough not to punish us, we get it in a thousand other ways. A child, regardless of age, is a fool to disobey or to speak unkindly to his parents. It is little, dirty, mean, beggarly, to show disrespect to parents.

The worst of all disobedience is to ignore God's commands, to walk upon them, to break them with impunity, and to walk in our own ways. Any one that wilfully disobeys God's word is a fool, according to Paul, and he knew.

(2). **Being Deceived.** "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived" (Titus 3:3).

There is no excuse for being deceived. It means that such a person was not willing to pay the price to know the truth. Too many depend upon what others say and teach, walking in their instruction, not remembering that Jesus said: "And if the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch" (Matt. 15:14). According to Paul, when a man is too everlastingly lazy to inform himself in God's word, allows himself to be deceived, he is a FOOL.

(3). **Serving Divers Lusts.** "For we ourselves also were sometime foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts" (Titus 3:3).

This is a lustful world. Lust is almost everywhere. All lusts are organized into three families, according to the following: "for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 Jno. 2:16). James tells us much about LUST. Hear him: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Jas. 1:14, 15). Lust leads to sin; sin leads to death, and the two make a man a FOOL. In other words LUST is one of the seven sins of a fool—a big fool.

(4). **Serving Divers Pleasures.** "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving lusts and pleasures" (Titus 3:3).

The world to-day is pleasure-mad. The world has become a veritable playground. Paul will tell us what it all means, what it is like. "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to

eat and drink, and rose up to play" (1 Cor. 10:7). Spending the life in play and pleasure is sinful, is one of the seven sins of a fool. God in His Word has provided a time to work, and a time to rest, but no time was provided for PLAY — that is idolatrous — that is sinful — one of the seven sins of a fool, we repeat—we cannot afford thus to waste blood-bought time.

(5). **Living in Malice.** "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice" (Titus 3:3).

Some people were almost born mad. It certainly was not long after birth before they were mad, and, seemingly, they have remained mad ever since. Madness is one of the seven sins of a fool. Paul said: "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Eph. 4:26). Some people never get over their madness, it holds on to the very end of life —such is unscriptural—it is wrong.

(6). **Living in Envy.** "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy" (Titus 3:3).

Envy is a terrible sin. It is another way to express jealousy. It is very sinful to envy a man of his good name, to desire to rob him of it, and to envy his success in life to the extent that we would ruin him, were it possible, but there are many such people in the world, and their daily work is to make life miserable for those who are truly good. Doctors envy each other; merchants do the same; so do preachers, neither class realizing that ENVY is one of the seven sins of a fool. All Christians should have such antipathy for ENVY that never would they be guilty of it. Only a fool envies another. Ordinar-

ily, if we envy others, we seek opportunities to do them damage by word and deed.

(7). **Hateful, and Hating.** "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another" (Titus 3:3).

A person that is hateful is full of hate, which means there is no room in the heart for good things. A man who is full of hate naturally hates others. Hating others is to despise God, since man is made in the image of God.

We trust that each reader of this book will so study it on his knees that he never will be guilty of either of the seven sins of a fool.

CHAPTER V

THE PUNISHMENT OF FOOLS

(1). **The Fool's Habitation Cursed.** "I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation" (Job 5:3).

It is a terrible thing to live such a fool-life that you are soon cut off, and thinking people, wise people, curse the place where you lived. Short life here and the curse which follows are the punishments of fools.

(2). **The Foolish Not To Stand in God's Sight.** "The foolish shall not stand in Thy sight: Thou hatest all workers of iniquity" (Psa. 5:5).

The fool may think that his life is as secure as is Gibraltar, that he can stand firmly against all the Satanic winds of earth, that he is immovable in God's sight, but when too late he will waken to realize that he is a failure in all of these things, that he is a FOOL.

(3). **Stinking Wounds Because of Foolishness.** "My wounds stink, and are corrupt, because of my foolishness" (Psa. 38:5).

Many loathsome diseases are suffered because of foolish living. The best of health depends upon right living. It is a big price one pays in this life to be a sinner, to be a fool, but our afflictions, our sufferings, do not seem to change us—we continue to sin.

(4). **Our Foolishness Known to the Lord.** "O God, Thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from Thee" (Psa. 69:5).

If we truly would realize that God does know everything about us, that all of our sins are before him at all

times, surely we would live better lives. However, we should live Christian lives, not through fear of punishment, but because it is right, and we love it.

(5). **Fools Perish.** "For He seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others" (Psa. 49:10).

Fools perish, and leave their wealth to others; therefore, it does not pay to be a fool. There are many ways to perish. The soul starves just as does the body. Very few souls get any nourishment. The soul is greatly fed on our knees, by reading God's Word, by living right, and by serving others in a godly way.

(6). **Fools Destroyed by Their Own Prosperity.** "For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them" (Prov. 1:32).

When a fool is prospering, he feels that he will live long and enjoy his wealth, not knowing that these things which he loves better than his life are the things which work his ruination, which destroy him. We kill ourselves by our own wickedness, and our other great losses come from our own mistakes generally.

(7). **Shame the Promotion of Fools.** "The wise shall inherit glory; but shame shall be the promotion of fools" (Prov. 3:35).

When shame is the only promotion one gets, he does not desire to be promoted, but he has to suffer it regardless of how he feels in the matter, for "we reap what we sow".

(8). **Fools Corrected in Stocks.** "He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks" (Prov. 7:22).

It is hard to know which leads to the saddest end, a

man running after a mean woman, an ox going to the slaughter, or a fool on his way to the correction of stocks. One has to pay to be a FOOL.

(9). **Fools Serving the Wise.** "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart" (Prov. 11:29).

Fools make themselves servants to the wise. However, when such calamity befalls them, they blame God and man, thinking all Heaven is against them, but they are simply reaping their own sowing.

(10). **Stripes for the Back of Fools.** "Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools" (Prov. 19:29).

Notwithstanding stripes are **prepared** for the backs of FOOLS, we continue to have fools, showing that mean people will be bad regardless of what they have to suffer in this and in the next world.

(11). **A Rod for the Fool's Back.** "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back" (Prov. 26:3).

If the whip is for the horse, and a rod for the fool's back, what is the difference between the fool and the horse? We think the horse has the advantage, for he does not know better, and even the fool should. It is hard to get a fool to know that he has put himself down with or below the common animals, and that all are punished together, but such is true. When a man is a fool, he should call every horse he sees "brother."

(12). **Fools and Transgressors Rewarded Alike.** "The great God, That formed all things, both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors" (Prov. 26:10).

It is hard to convince a fool that it is sinful to be a

fool, that he is a transgressor, and that severe punishment awaits him, but both are true, nevertheless.

(13). **No Remembrance of the Fool.** "For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool, for ever; seeing that which now is, in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool" (Ecle. 2:16).

In the sight of ordinary people there is no difference made between the wise and fools, but in God's sight the difference is great, for the fools are cast away forever, while the "wise shine as the stars forever and ever."

(14). **Fools Dying Before Their Time.** "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time" (Ecle. 7:17)?

If man had never sinned, there would have been no death. Even after sin entered the world man lived to be over nine hundred years of age, but because of sin life continued to shorten till 1890, when the average life for the world was but a fraction over thirty years of age. Since that time as man has improved his way of living, sinning less against God and nature, life has continued to lengthen until the average in America is about fifty-five years, showing that obedience to the Lord will increase our lives, but being FOOLS brings the opposite effect, short lives. If we hate life, if we just want to die prematurely, there is a way to do it without drinking carbolic acid—JUST BE A FOOL.

CONCLUSION

At first thought the readers of this book may be inclined to think that it deals with only the black side of life, but it is far from it. It points out our mistakes so they may be corrected at once, making it possible to spend more years in living all for Christ. We never reform till we see the need of reformation. This book shows that need, making it a real friend to each conscientious reader. Nathan the prophet was not an enemy to David when he said: "Thou are the man." He was his best friend. If David had not been brought thus to his senses, he never would have been so humble, prayerful, and repentant. If we are fools, we need to know it before it is everlastingly too late, and no one can make us know ourselves better than God.

The first time one reads the "ONE HUNDRED BIBLE WAYS TO BE A FOOL" he will be inclined to look for descriptions of other fools, those whom he daily meets, but he should reread it, even again and again, looking for the different ways in which he himself is a fool, numbering those various ways, that he may fully know himself, getting his weight in God's balances, to see if he is found "wanting", and, if he is, he should at once begin the great battle of his life to overcome those weaknesses till he is no longer a fool, no longer foolish in any way, having made all needed reformation in his own life. By doing it this way, the book will be worth more than all the other wealth of the world. It brings about a regeneration of body, soul, and spirit; it beautifies one's own disposition; it makes him more congenial, kind, gentle, patient, loving; it makes him more beloved by others, for he is a ben-

ediction to all who touch his wonderful disposition; it gives him "power with God and man", and he becomes a leavening influence for good everywhere he goes. Yes, the book is a real friend to each reader.

The author in getting out all the Scriptures in the Bible on different kinds of fools, reading from Genesis to Revelation to do it, discovered that he was a fool in more ways than one, but was very happy to make the discovery while he had time to mend his ways, for above everything else he wants to live a life pleasing to God, and he assures his readers that no one will be helped more by studying the book than he was by writing it—he is trying his best to live the new things he learned. He believes fully that his readers will be just as honest with themselves, that they will be just as happy over discovering in this way their weaknesses, and that they will be better men and women after reading the book. The author's great request is that each reader will go over the book many times, seeking help for himself, that he may become as nearly as is possible just like the great Christ, being a lovely, walking example of real goodness to others who are watching his life, and telling them where they may procure the book that has so blessed and enriched his own life.

When we, the author included, are no longer fools in any way, we shall then be worthy of being numbered with the wise of earth, our feet will be planted upon the solid rock, even the "Rock of Ages", and truly shall we "walk with God", or "sit with Christ in heavenly places", daily basking in the sunshine of boundless love, our souls feasting upon mountain-top experiences, ever hastening to join the caravan of the immortal, the blood-bought saints in glory. Amen.

SEVEN BIBLE REASONS FOR DIVORCE

and

RIGHTS TO REMARRY

The World and the Church in Error Concerning Divorce

All these years we have been taught that there is but one Bible reason for divorce, but in this book the Author does not fail to furnish book, chapter and verse for **Seven Bible Reasons for Divorce.** In addition to furnishing Bible proofs for **Seven Reasons for Divorce,** when he comes to adultery or fornication as one of those reasons, he proves by the Bible that there are seven different kinds of fornication and adultery described in the Bible, thus doubly proving his argument. There has never been such light thrown upon the subject of divorce before. The Author studied the Bible twenty years under masters, just gives his life to digging out its jewels and gold nuggets, and is authority when he speaks concerning God's Word.

Preachers in Past Generations Blamable for Divorce Conditions

The divorce conditions which obtain now did not come in a day —they are the results of hundreds of years of unfortunate teachings. If ministers during the past nineteen hundred years had been informed on the divorce subject, and concerning Scriptural marriages for Christians, members of the churches would not need, would not want divorces now. Erroneous teaching in the past has brought upon us conditions which make divorce most needful for this generation—life for many honest people would be intolerable without divorce. It is not the "divorce evil", as it is called, that is doing the hurt—it is the "marriage evil"—not marrying Scripturally —not marrying God's way—and this book goes to the eternal depths of the subject—lays bare hidden facts—shows the way to cure the "cause", and then "divorce", the "result" of the wicked cause, will pass away.

Preachers Now Can Remedy Divorce for Next Generation

Woodrow Wilson was the first great leader that recognized the fact that ministers hold the balance of power concerning great campaigns, and in all his efforts to put over the war in a great way he failed not to write each minister a letter, a challenge to do his best by public appeal for men and money—it was a success. In the 1928 Presidential election it was demonstrated that preachers make and unmake Presidents. The same is true concerning divorce. They are the only ones that can handle the situation. They can curb it or they may let it grow worse and worse till the home is a thing of the past, and "free love" obtains everywhere.

Preachers Should Understand Divorce from All Angles

Since the "balance of power" concerning divorce is in the hands of ministers, it behooves them to go into the subject thoroughly, getting everything the Bible says about it, from every angle, and then get busy informing their church members on the subject. Our book entitled "SEVEN BIBLE REASONS FOR DIVORCE and RIGHTS TO REMARRY" goes into the subject as has never been done before. There is no depth, no height, no length, no breadth of the divorce trouble, of the "unscriptural marriage" evil not reached by this book—it gives every angle of the two subjects as found in God's word.

Divorce is gnawing at the vitals of the home, of the church, of the national governments, pointing pale fingers at destruction for all three, and legislators cannot stop the evil—it rests only in the hands of the preachers. Therefore, every minister in all the world should own a copy of this book, read it, and teach its mighty Bible principles till the next generation is assured of a better day, of united, Christian homes, and the lovely tranquility that belongs to the same.

Chapter Headings in the Book

(1). **Four Old Testament Reasons for Divorce."** In this chapter we have hair-raising things on the subject—surprising things on the subject—enlightening things—things that make the Old Testament a new Book—things that give us new revelations concerning God.

(2). **Three New Testament Reasons for Divorce."** In this chapter unexpected things loom before us—we become surprised at our not having seen some things in the New Testament before—we wonder why those who went before us did not see things so simple, so plain, of such great meaning.

(3). **"Wives That Could Not Be Divorced".** In the Old Testament there were certain marriage ties that never could be broken—there are such marriage bonds now that must not be severed—oh, how the world needs to know all of these things.

(4). **"Bible Husbands".** To be a "Bible Husband", there are ten commands to be lived—not the ten Moses wrote—and no one has a right to divorce a "Bible Husband". If he is not a "Bible Husband", and he is divorced, no husband has been divorced—he was not a husband—he was a stick.

(5). **"Bible Wives."** To be a "Bible Wife", there are eleven commands to be obeyed, and no "Bible Wife" should be divorced. If not a "Bible Wife", she is not a "Wife", and a "white elephant" was gotten rid of in divorce—not a "wife".

(6). **"Rights to Remarry."** We prove that when one has a Scriptural right for a divorce, he has a Bible right to remarry—most interesting.

(7). **"Broken Hearts."** This deals with the real troubles obtaining in unhappy marriages, the internal fires locked up in the hearts of millions, fires that are burning out the vitals of life, fires that make life a hell on wheels. The book proves that a merciful God does not expect such to continue in such hells.

(8). **Sinful and Unscriptural Marriages."** Herein lies the "cause", the trouble. It is not the "divorce evil" that is ruining the home, the church, the world—it is the "marriage evil".

(9). **"Scriptural Marriages."** In this chapter we find the great physician, and Gilead's balm for the divorce trouble—here is where the minister is held accountable—here is where he holds the balance of power.

(10). **"The Scriptural Way for Christians to Select Companions."** Here is where the ministry has failed the church and the world again. When they teach all the truth along this line members of the church will not need, will not want divorces.

(11). **"Divorce Cured for the Next Generation."** There is a Bible way to do it—it all lies with the preachers—what will they do about it?

(12). **"The Bible Home."** The following things go into the making of the "Bible Home": Bible husbands by obeying ten commands—Bible wives by obeying eleven commands—the tenfold authority of the husband in the home—the four requirements of the husband as the provider for the home—Bible fathers by obeying ten other commands—Bible mothers by obeving ten other commands—the fourfold protection of motherhood, no deaths in childbirth—Bible children by obeying thirty commands—Bible masters by obeying six

commands—Bible servants by obeying ten commands, not those that Moses wrote—the home Divinely insured against all harm by our doing thirty-six things, obeying that many commands.

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Author of the Book

The Author of "SEVEN BIBLE REASONS FOR DIVORCE and RIGHTS TO REMARRY" is John W. Tyndall, A. M., LL. D., Atlanta, Georgia. Enough has been said. When he signs his name to a book, it is the genuine article.

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P. 87 "hell on wheels"

P. 85 his proposed book on divorce

note - this proposed book was not published according to W. E. Ferrell of Clarendon, Tex. who sold John W. Tyndall's books in North Carolina for awhile. John W. Tyndall was killed in an automobile accident in Oklahoma in September, 1933.